



NEWS ADVISORY

Oct. 8, 2010

For immediate release

RABIES DAY CLINIC TO BE HELD SATURDAY

Volunteers to hold free health clinic for low-income dogs on the Poverello Center front lawn

Generous volunteers will hold a free health clinic for dogs on Saturday on the front lawn of the Poverello Center, Missoula's homeless shelter and soup kitchen at 535 Ryman St., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All people with low incomes or no incomes are invited to bring their dogs for free rabies and parvo/distemper vaccines (annual shots) from volunteer veterinarian Patti Prato of Four Paws Veterinary Clinic in Missoula.

We will supply rabies tags and collars, dog food, information about spay and neuter services and other pet-related items. All will be available *while supplies last*.

The clinic was organized by the Mayor's Office after concerned citizens approached Mayor John Engen about possibly unmet health needs of dogs in the downtown area. The effort coincided with World Rabies Day, an initiative of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control held this year on Sept. 28. The Humane Society of Western Montana secured a grant for rabies vaccine.

"We are so grateful to Pfizer Animal Health and the World Rabies Day Team for providing free rabies vaccine for Rabies Day," said Lora O'Connor, director of the Humane Society of Western Montana. "We know that concerned citizens have been worried about the lack of care of some pets in this community. While this clinic is small, it's a huge step in the right direction."

Saturday's clinic is a collaboration among the Humane Society of Western Montana, Missoula Animal Control, Four Paws Veterinary Clinic, the Poverello Center, Missoula Food Bank, the Mayor's Office and community volunteers.

Contacts: Ginny Merriam, City of Missoula Public Information/Communications Officer
Office: 552-6007 Cell: 546-7692

Lora O'Connor, Director, Humane Society of Western Montana
Office: 549-3934 Cell: 543-2633